

# SPARK PLUG

Vol. 23, No. 4

BROOKLYN HIGH SCHOOL OF AUTOMOTIVE TRADES

January 1963



## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I know that all of us here noticed the several changes in school procedures this term. All of these have been instituted with the idea of giving better service to you in the lunchroom and in other places. I am sure that by now you have become used to these changes and will agree that they are an improvement.

To bring you up to date, we are also trying to get these improvements in the near future.

A. In the lunchroom we are installing

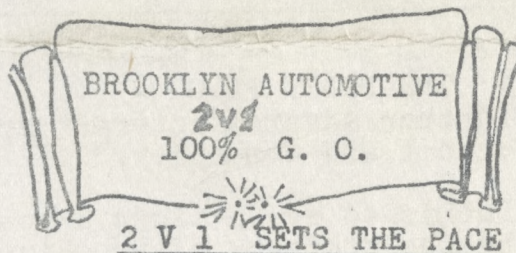
1. A new public address system that will be able to furnish background music during lunch.
2. Large fans for hot weather.
3. Menu bulletin boards to show what is available each day.
4. Silverware, on an experimental basis, in one lunch period.

B. In the building at large

1. The bathrooms are being repainted.
2. Plans will be drawn this Spring for an electrical renovation of the building.
3. We are setting plans on foot to have the whole building renovated and a new fourth floor added to the building. This is a long range project and will take several years.

May I urge all students to cooperate by helping to raise our attendance record and reduce the amount of lateness. Though you may not think so, this will help a great deal in our efforts to get the renovation for our school. Lastly, let me remind all students that it is absolutely necessary to have their program cards available at all times and up to date.

LOUIS AUERBACH  
Principal



Dr. Giannotta's class, the freshmen of 2V1, got off with a flying start once more in becoming this term's first 100% G.O. class.

Twenty-one other classes, led by V5 with 87%, are also supporting the two-week old campaign.

In the February 5th Assembly program we heard Mr. Auerbach reveal that our student body is one of the highest participating groups found in any school, with more than 15% of the students participating in seven teams. Two more, swimming and tennis, are to be added shortly.

Such extensive and varied extra-curricular activities depend heavily on a strong and healthy G.O. Do your share to make our teams winners. JOIN THE G. O.-----NOW!

-Ellis Rackoff

## AUTOMOTIVE SCIENCE CLUB TO LAUNCH NEW PUBLICATION

The Spark Plug is pleased to announce that very shortly we shall be joined by a sister publication: the as yet un-named journal to be published by the Science Club, under the supervision and direction of Mr. Koppel, Science Club faculty adviser.

The staff of the proposed new paper includes Michael Stroebel, Jose Tejeda, Richard Nierer, Jose Merced, Raymond Feeney, and Arthur Scandiffio.

The new paper will appear once each third, and the initial issue is due for distribution during the second week in March.

-J. Hopkins

VOTE FOR A CLEANER AUTOMOTIVE  
-USE THE LITTER BASKETS.



## THE SPARK PLUG

"To further advance interest in school and community."

Published seven times a year by the students of Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, 50 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn 22, New York.

MR. LOUIS AUERBACH, Principal.

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## YOUTH AND WORK

Mayor Wagner's Task Force on Youth Work recently reported to him that more than 77,000 New York City youth are out of school and out of work. This tragic circumstance, the Mayor insists, is not exclusively a New York City problem, but one faced by all large American cities.

Our source does not indicate what percentage of this incipient army of unemployed graduated or what percentage dropped out. However, one cannot help wondering what inadequacies or deficiencies operate to render unmarketable and useless---at least temporarily---77,000 minds, skills, and potentialities, poised on the threshold of adulthood.

Mayor Wagner envisages, among other things, a New York City Youth Corps as a possible disposition of this growing army. Whatever the solution, we trust that the foregoing will dispel any illusions some of those in earshot may have about joining the 77,000.

*"Books that Live"*

## FIVE-AND-TEN TECHNOLOGY

Making Electricity Work, by John M. Kennedy (Thomas Y. Crowell. New York City. 213 pages. \$3.50.)

The five chapters of this book, "What is Electricity?", "Circuits," "Where Electrons Come From," "The Nature of Magnetism," and "Motors and Generators" present and explain the basic principles of electricity.

The author of this book is a practicing engineer, and in addition to providing theoretical clarification in incredibly simple and understandable rhetoric, also includes an abundance of unsophisticated applications. First, he explains then tells us how to build circuits, indicators, switches, computers, batteries, magnets, relays, buzzers, motors, generators, capacitors, and transformers.

You will be astounded at the variety and quantity of functioning electrical equipment, projects, and items which can be assembled from paper clips, thumb tacks, flashlight batteries, lamp cords, nails, Scotch tape, household bleach, aluminum foil, needles, coffee cans, etc., and---of course---the basic electrical knowledge derived from these 213 exciting pages. One can build every project in the book and require only two items that might necessitate a trip to the corner hardware: a neon glow bulb and a particular gauge of enamel magnet wire.

If you're undecided about a project for the next Science Fair, then hurry to the Library and ask Mrs. Plows or Mrs. Billmyer to let you have this book---when I return it.



# Features

## THE INTERVIEW

As you know, I have been looking for a good job for a long time. Well, yesterday I found the job I have always wanted.

The job was as teller in a large bank, with good pay and good hours; all I had to do was to tell the manager, in a nice way, that I was just the man he was looking for.

I impressed him the minute I walked in. I wore a good clean suit, white shirt and tie, shined shoes, everything just right.

I introduced myself, and said that I was here to apply for the vacant job. Here's where I needed the right answers to his many questions.

He gave me an application and told me to fill it out. I noticed his expression as I took out the little note-book in which my references were listed. It looked as if to say: "This guy is on the ball; he might make a good employee."

After I filled out the application, he asked how much experience I'd had, if any. How long I'd been working, if I was married, and why I wanted this type of job.

These questions seem easy to answer, but I had to be alert, get each word, and reply promptly.

Then he took me to a teller's cage, showed me what I'd have to do, what was expected of me, and what to do if something went wrong. Then he asked if I thought I could handle the job, and I said, "Yes."

We went back to the office, where he told me to come in Monday, report to the head-teller, and begin work.

Everything was easy, because I had come prepared for anything. I learned that only a man well-prepared and in good clean clothes has any chance at all.

-James Masterson.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Have you missed Masterson from the Automotive scene? He hasn't been seen around because he did get the job. As you can see, truth is often far more interesting than fiction. Let us have some of your experiences for the Feature Page.)



Cartoons-of-the-Month  
"The picture tube acts up every time a Polaris sub goes under!"

## WANT TO WRITE ?

Do you enjoy receiving letters from far away places? Listed below are names and addresses of boys (sorry, no girls' names available, yet) who want American pen pals.

1. A Japanese boy anxious to correspond with American boys.

Keipi Noritomo  
435 4-chome Suwahigashi  
Jyoto-ku  
Osaka City, Japan

2. A Ghanaian boy, 15 years old, who likes swimming, stamp collecting, dancing, and sports wants to exchange letters with an American boy.

Laud Nii Ankrah  
P. O. Box 079  
Christiansborg, Ghana

## FATHER OF HIS COUNTRY

This story is told of Joseph P. Kennedy, at the Thanksgiving dinner at his Hyannis Port, Mass., home. His family was gathered around the dinner table, and the senior Kennedy sat down, looked around and greeted them thus: "My sons, the government...."



LET'S GET ACQUAINTED



WITH OUR SCHOOL AIDES



"I don't know what all the fus is about. I've smiled like that thousand times."



MR. JOHN SEKERA is an acrobat, a wrestler, a trapeze artist, and an ardent physical culture enthusiast. He is very favorably impressed with Automotive, and finds our boys "respectful and cooperative gentlemen. I am happy to be associated with them."

MR. THOMAS VAN DIXON is a native Texan, who looks like one in height. Mr. Van Dixon is a student at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he is working for a Master's degree in science. He finds our students "alert, intelligent, and cooperative for the most part. There seems to be a small minority innocent of the principles of discipline."

MRS. FITZGERALD enjoys her assignment as a school aid, and she commends the boys on "their politeness, their kindness, and their obvious desire to have a quiet and clean lunchroom."

MR. ABRAHAM MINKIN has always felt that boys will be boys and finds that ours are no exception. He hopes that the students will continue to be "cooperative and friendly."

MR. GEORGE STRASSHEIM admires the gentlemanly and courteous attitudes of our students. He was pleasantly surprised by "the ease and rapidity with which they have adjusted to the new situation" in the lunchroom.

MR. EUGENE PRUSICK took a week to get oriented, but now he finds us "a nice bunch of fellows." He likes the quiet and busy atmosphere of the school.

MR. CHARLES ESSES hails from the state of West Virginia, where, a few short years he was a student in bio-chemistry at West Virginia State College. In high school he was an outstanding athlete, winning 15 letters. He was All-State in both basketball and football. His was also a vocational high school, a fact which enables him to appreciate the opportunities our school offers.

MR. FRANK DZUREK asked our reporter to interview him another time, since they were keeping him plenty busy on the "hot" line during fourth period lunch. Moreover, as Mr. Dzurek pointed out, "This is only my third day, and I haven't had time to form an opinion."

#### BROTHERHOOD WEEK

This annual event was formally observed at Automotive by various class and school activities, culminating in an Assembly program, on Tuesday, February 19th, devoted to that theme.

The program emphasized the Bill of Rights and the features of our democracy which implement it, and was prepared and presented under the direction of Dr. Giannotta.

Fudall, 8V27, was the able and articulate Master of Ceremonies. Velozzi 8V25, List 8V25, Calendar 8V25, discussed the Articles. A summary was presented by Scolaro 8V29 and Harris 8V27.

The concept of "Brotherhood" was discussed by Thurston V12 and Metal V12. Cohen 8V27 and Mcityre 6V19 gave short speeches on "Negro History."

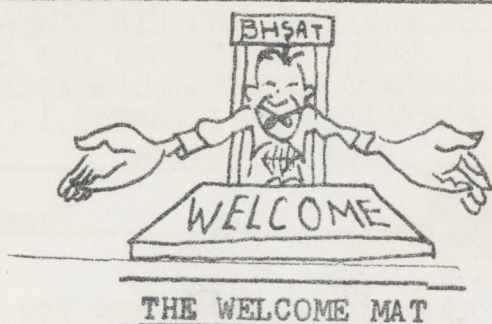
The program's finale consisted of a speech on George Washington by Clark 8V29.

#### MAYBE HE'S FROM HUNGER

A student in 6V23 was recently chatting with his date's father while awaiting her. He was a little shaken up when the congenial parent observed, "Emma Lou tells me you're from Creepsville."

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROBERT PETERSON V29 AND ROGER BELANGER V29 AUTOMOTIVE'S REGENTS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS.





MR. E. SMALLMAN, newly appointed teacher in the Academic Department, taught social studies for seven and one-half years at J.H.S. 6, Brooklyn before joining Automotive.

Mr. Smallman is a music lover, fond of all varieties; an avid reader, though mostly history and biography; and a frequent theatre goer---mostly musicals---as well as a devout sports spectator.

When asked for his impressions of Automotive, Mr. Smallman replied, "I am very much impressed with the good behavior and attitude of the boys here at B.H.S.A.T. I have yet to meet the boy who has not shown an interest in and appreciation for the type of education he can obtain at our fine school."

The SPARK PLUG is pleased to join the student body in welcoming Mr. Smallman, and hopes that his excellent opinion of us will endure.

---Ellis Rackoff

#### CITY OFFICIAL MEETS THE METROPOLITAN H. S. PRESS

We can now say with certainty that City Council President Paul Screvane is giving the next mayoralty campaign serious consideration. Our evidence for this is the fact that on Wednesday, February 20, he met with our Ellis Rackoff and a large group of high school editors, in the City Council Chamber of City Hall.

What more influential body of moulders of opinion could Mr. Screvane have assembled?

Mr. Screvane discussed with the High School Press Council, which is sponsored by the Board of Education, aspects of municipal affairs, as well as all questions raised by the visiting editors.

After the interview, Mr. Louis Simon, DeWitt Clinton H. S., Faculty Adviser of the Council, made a short speech outlining effective techniques of conducting a press interview.

Members of the SPARK PLUG staff attending the conference were Editor Ellis Rackoff, 6V22, Detlef Rahe 6V23, and Lawrence Woo 6V23.

The students presented some keen and penetrating questions about housing, rent law legislation, anti-strike laws, minimum-wage legislation, and many others.

Mr. Screvane handled all questions objectively, fairly, and with obvious relish. His 27 years in government have given him, in addition to a steady rise through the ranks, a complete mastery of administrative detail.

If, as one newsmagazine currently speculates, Mayor Wagner runs for the U. S. Senate and is elected, Mr. Screvane will serve as Mayor for the unexpired term. If this occurs, the city, according to the report of our delegation to the press conference, will be in very capable hands.

#### 28TH ANNUAL FENCING MEET HELD AT N. Y. U.

On Saturday, February 16th, 36 top fencing teams schools in the greater metropolitan area competed for the Costello Trophy, which signifies fencing supremacy in our area.

Automotive entered this competition for the first time in three years. Our team consisted of Jose Tejeda 6V23, Orlando Colon 6V21, and Rubin Ortiz 6V22.

Mr. Jacobsen, the fencing coach, pointed out that our team consisted entirely of juniors, and did not enter the meet with any great expectations. Our aim was primarily to gain the valuable experience which such competition provides.

We gained a bye in the first round. In the second round, we were opposed by East New York H. S. and Newfield H. S., from Long Island.

In spite of what Coach Jacobsen has described as "an excellent showing," we lost by a narrow margin. A similar fate awaited us in the second meet. But our mission was accomplished in that our team and coach obtained the "baptism of fire" and resulting experience so valuable for a young team.

As a result of our participation and excellent showing in this meet, Automotive is now "big league" in fencing.



OUR PISTONS EXTEND THEIR STREAK TO SIX STRAIGHT GAMES BY OVERWHELMING EAST NEW YORK 75-61. THE TEAM RECORD IS NOW 12 WINS AND SIX LOSSES. THIS EXCELLENT RECORD, ACCOMPLISHED BY COACH KAMINSKY AND HIS STALWARTS, TIES US WITH GRADY FOR SECOND PLACE. SHOULD GRADY LOSE ONE OF THEIR TWO REMAINING GAMES, WE SHALL END OUR FIRST BASKETBALL SEASON IN UNDISPUTED COMMAND OF SECOND PLACE - A FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT!

-Joseph Fodera

January, 1963

# SPORTS

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## AUTOMOTIVE HAS BIG DAY IN MAYOR'S TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP MEET

On Saturday, February 2nd, Coach Gerginov and the track team journeyed to the Mayor's annual City-wide Track and Field Championship Meet, held at the 168th Street Armory, Manhattan.

As a result of their sojourn, the trophy cases in the auditorium lobby is more crowded than ever.

The 880 yards relay team, L. Wilson, A. Burns, L. Finch, and F. Darling, won their heat by 3 seconds.

Coach Gerginov attributes our success to the boys' strong desire to improve their skills and to increase their speed. This same desire also motivated hard and diligent work during cross-country season. The fruits of those efforts, Mr. Gerginov added, are now being harvested.

Bennie Johnson gave the second best time in his heat and gained the finals in the 60-yard dash. Although Bennie has met with a serious accident since the meet occurred, we are all hoping that he will be able to better his time in the finals, thereby adding another medal to his collection.

If you are considering track as an avenue of your own prowess, then hearken to these sage words of Coach Gerginov: "The novice 880 yard relay provides excellent opportunities for boys with ambition, courage, and enthusiasm. In due time, they may compete in open events among the best scholastic athletes in the City."



"Why not adopt me? Looks as if you'll have me forever."

Ben Roth Agency

880 relay team: what are you waiting for, fellows? How about some medals? Come on Norm White, Joe Grant, Alex Callender, and Dalbert Clarke, let's get with it!

#

We join Coach Gerginov and the student body in looking forward to new victories in the dual meets, to take place very shortly.

#



A Scholastic Magazines cartoon

"What did he get so upset for? He said, 'Write 250 words of your own choice,' so I chose two pages from the dictionary."

WELL, AT LEAST HE WAS POLITE

A young woman of our acquaintance had a terrible experience last week when she attended one of those horror-movie double features. A teen-ager sitting directly behind her tapped her on the shoulder and asked, "Pardon me, Miss, would you please remove your head?"

## DRESSMAKING



Morley Burtstein  
E.B.I.

"I want to surprise the wife. Here's her frame and chassis measurements. Give the dress that modern look—you know, forward thrust, sweep back lines."